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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the enclosed Abstract page 77 into the specification.

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**NEW GDF-9 AND GDF-9B (BMP-15) SEQUENCES FOR ALTERING MAMMALIAN
OVARIAN FUNCTION AND OVULATION RATE**

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides compositions and methods for modulating the ovulation rate and therefore fertility in female mammals including humans. The invention also relates to novel mutations in the GDF-9 and GDF-9B genes which are associated with changes in fertility.